

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31st DECEMBER, 1904.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
DRAYTON.

Gentlemen,—

I have now the honour of presenting my Annual Report upon the health of your District for the past year.

The death-rate was lower than the average of the previous ten years. The infantile mortality rate was also considerably lower than the average. Measles and whooping cough were prevalent throughout the District, especially in the second half of the year, and outbreaks of scarlet fever occurred in several parishes, rendering the closing of schools for short periods necessary, in order to check the spread of contagion.

PHYSICAL FEATURES & GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The Rural Sanitary District of Drayton comprises an area of upwards of 51,000 acres, situated in the great central plain of England. The general elevation of the District is about 300 feet. The District extends from the parishes of Adderley and Norton-in-Hales on the North, to the parish of Woore on the North-East, where the three counties, Cheshire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire join; to the South, as far as and including the parishes of Hinstock and Child's Ercall, and the villages of Eaton and Little Bolas in Stoke Tern and the parish of Chewardine. On the East it is bounded by the River Tern and the parish of Chewardine. On the West it extends to and includes the village of Stoke-upon-Tern, the parish and village of Hodnet, and the hamlet of Marchamley. Near the centre of the district is the town of Market Drayton with the township of Little Drayton adjoining, and the parish of Moreton Say. The formation throughout is the new red sandstone, which attains its greatest elevation in England in the district. The River Tern in its winding course to the Severn drains the greater portion of the district. The land in general contour is level, well watered, highly cultivated, and there are some finely timbered estates. The population is chiefly employed in agricultural pursuits and stock-raising.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.—The population of the Rural Sanitary District of Drayton at the last census (1901) was 11,708. The estimated population at the middle of 1904 was 11,626. The natural increase population (being the excess of births over deaths registered in the year) was 130.

The area of the District (exclusive of area covered by water) is 51,384 acres. The number of inhabited houses when the census of 1901 was taken was 2,655. The average number of persons per house was 4.4.

MARRIAGES.—The number of marriages registered during the year was 86, or at the rate of 7.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The average rate for the preceding ten years being 6.6 per 1,000.

BIRTHS.—The births registered in 1904 were 315, of which 32, or rather more than 10 per cent., were illegitimate. The birth-rate was 27.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The average rate for the preceding nine years was 25.6. The birth-rate of Rural England and Wales for 1904 was 26.8 per 1,000.

DEATHS.—During the year 183 deaths were registered in the District. Two of these were non-residents, and have to be deducted, but four residents have died in the County Asylum, and these have to be added, making the net total 185 equal to a death-rate of 15.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population per annum. The average death-rate for the preceding nine years was 15.3. The death-rate of Rural England and Wales for 1904 was 15.3.

The number of deaths certified as due to the seven chief epidemic diseases was 15, equal to a rate of 1.3 per 1,000. The average rate for the preceding nine years was 0.96. The rate for Rural England and Wales for 1904 was 1.28 per 1,000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Thirty-six infants under one year of age died during the year. Of these five were prematurely born. The infantile mortality rate was 114 per 1,000 births. The average rate for the preceding nine years was 132 per 1,000 births. Rural England and Wales for 1904: 125 per 1,000 births.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.—Of the 185 deaths occurring in 1904, seventy-eight were of persons of the age of 65 and upwards, and fifty-three died under the age of 5, the two extremes of life thus counting for more than two-thirds of the total deaths. Sixteen deaths were certified as due to old age, the average of the ages being nearly 80 years. Heart diseases accounted for no less than 41 deaths, Pneumonia 16, Bronchitis 15, Cancer 15, Consumption and other tubercular diseases 14. There were 2 deaths from child-birth, 5 from premature birth, 1 from accidental burning, and two suicides. Further details as to the causes of death, ages of death, averages, etc., will be found in the official tables of the Local Government Board, affixed to this report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Sixty-four cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to me from the whole District under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1899, viz.: 47 of scarlet fever, 12 of erysipelas, 3 of diphtheria, 1 of enteric fever, and 1 of pulmonary tuberculosis (consumption).

Twenty-four of the cases of scarlet fever occurred in Norton parish, 6 in one house at Chewardine, 8 at Hinstock, 4 at Woodseaves, 3 at Woore, and 2 at Hodnet. Norton Schools were closed for seven weeks in April and May in consequence of the epidemic of scarlet fever, Hinstock schools for a month in May, owing to the prevalence of whooping cough. Measles became epi-

demic in Drayton, Little Drayton, Woodseaves, and Chewardine, in the months of September, October, and November, and the schools were closed in Little Drayton for 8 weeks, Market Drayton and Chewardine 6 weeks, and Woodsseaves 4 weeks.

In all cases of infectious disease printed instructions have been sent to the occupiers of the infected houses, suggesting the precautions to be taken in order to check the spread of contagion. Where insanitary conditions have been found to exist, they have been reported to your Council, either by myself or the Sanitary Inspector. At the termination of all cases, disinfection and efficient cleansing of the infected rooms have been carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Measles and whooping cough are not included in the list of notifiable diseases.

An isolation hospital for infectious diseases (other than smallpox) has been erected at Little Drayton by the Joint Committee of Drayton Rural and Blore Heath Rural District Councils, and three cases of scarlet fever were admitted in September and October, two from Blore Heath and one from Drayton district. A hospital at Prees Heath is now available for the isolation of cases of smallpox, should any occur in the district.

VACCINATION.

The statistics of vaccination in your District are as follows:—

315 children were born and registered in 1904; of these, 237 were successfully vaccinated, 44 were not of age at the end of the year, 20 died unvaccinated, the vaccination of 9 was postponed by medical certificate, and 5 children were removed out of the District. No conscientious objection to vaccination was made.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE WORKING CLASS.

The house accommodation in the District generally is adequate. Many houses of an improved standard have been recently built in and near Market Drayton. A number of old and dilapidated houses are having the attention of the Council. Building bye-laws are now in force.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE  
SUPERVISION.

Lodging-houses, slaughter-houses, and bake-houses are regularly inspected. Dairies, cow-sheds, etc., are registered, and their inspection is under consideration of the Council.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The Ducat bacterial filter erected for the treatment of the sewage of Little Drayton, is operating satisfactorily.

The filter was inspected by members of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, in October. The treatment of Market Drayton sewage should now have the attention of the Council.

EXEMPTION DISPOSAL.

Partly by water-closets, and partly by privies, and outside closets in connection with cess-pools. The number of water-closets is increasing, and, with the abundant water supply, the water carriage system of disposal ought to become general in Market Drayton and Little Drayton.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

A public system is under consideration. At present the removal and disposal of refuse falls upon the occupier, and is regulated by bye-laws.

WATER SUPPLY.

Market Drayton and Little Drayton are well supplied with water of good quality by the Market Drayton Water Company. Nearly 1,000 houses have the water laid on. In October and November, 1902, I inspected and reported upon the water supplies of the villages in the District, and the subject is having the consideration of the Council.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS' ACT, 1901.

The Home Office official table, shewing the administration of the Act in the District, is affixed to this report.

NUISANCES, ETC.

A summary of the work done by your Sanitary Inspector is given below.

1 am,  
Yours faithfully,  
A MACQUEEN, M.D.

15th March, 1905.

The following is an account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the year ending 31st December, 1904, in the Drayton Rural Sanitary District:—

Number of Houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey ..... 594

Number of legal and informal notices sent ..... 293

Number of such notices complied with ..... \*201

Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to

in the above notices:—

Houses to be infected after Infectious Disease ..... 18

Deficient or objectionable water supply ..... \*71

New drains to be constructed, or old drains to be amended ..... 54

New closets to be provided, or old ones to be amended in construction ..... 22

Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or

weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition ..... 2

Offensive accumulation of all kinds ..... 118

Animals kept so as to be a nuisance ..... 5

Houses overcrowded ..... 3

\*Water supplies to villages of Norton-in-Hales and Chewardine under consideration.

